

# NFL players against 'single-business' plan

United Press International  
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The National Football League Players' Association, holding its annual convention this week, opposes an effort by league officials and team owners to obtain what the union calls an antitrust exemption.

Ed Garvey, executive director of the NFLPA, said the league's attempt to be declared a "single business entity" instead of 28 separate teams was anti-consumer and antilabor.

A resolution adopted by the NFLPA Board of Player Representatives said the exemption would allow the owners to set "exorbitant league-wide ticket prices," change the televising of games from networks to pay TV and move franchises "at the whim of the commissioner or any owner."

Garvey said the NFL failed in efforts to obtain the single-business declaration through the courts.

"Having lost in the courts,

they're going back to Congress," he said Monday. "Our position is that it would hurt the public and hurt the players."

NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle, speaking Monday during the owners' meeting in Phoenix, said that he hoped the legislation would be introduced within two weeks.

Rozelle said the league was not seeking an antitrust exemption, "but we are seeking the same treatment as a multi-faceted company."

Garvey said the resolution opposing the plan was being signed by players at the convention and would be presented to Congress. He said the NFLPA had been assured by some congressmen that full hearings would be held when the proposal is introduced.

The NFLPA convention, which began Monday, comes in the middle of negotiations between the players and owners. The two sides have met twice this year and are expected to meet again early next month. The current contract expires July 15.

Garvey, calling the talks the "most important bargaining session in the history of sports," said the NFLPA wants 55 percent of the league's gross revenues and negotiations on such issues as free agency, life insurance and retirement and the elimination of artificial turf.

He urged the more than 500 association members at the convention to remain united and support the union leadership during the negotiations.

"Everyone in this room is committed to getting you the benefits you deserve," he said.

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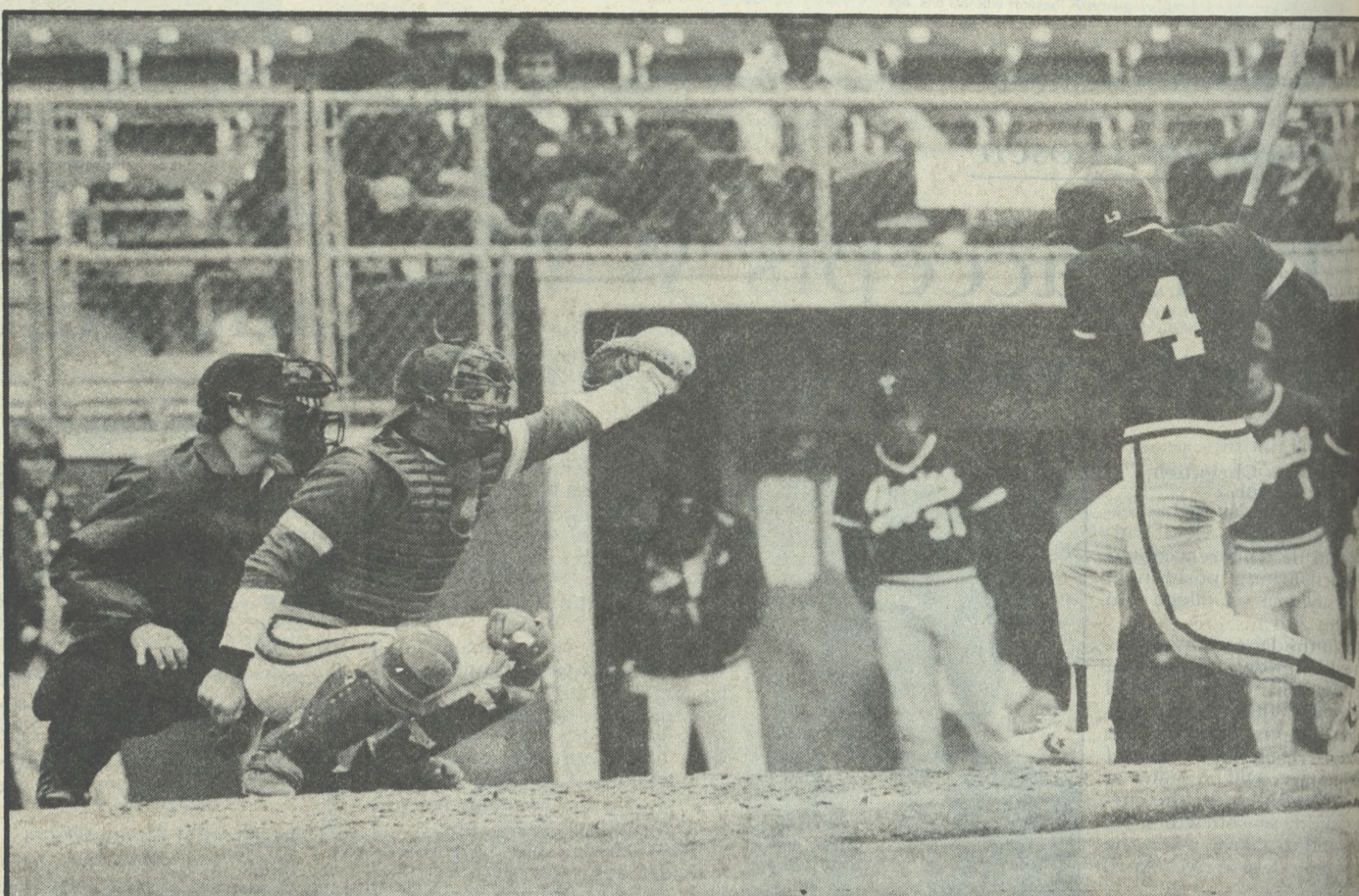
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High and inside

staff photo by Peter Ruch

Second baseman Brad Hisle of the Texas A&M baseball team turns a shoulder to a pitch that's too close for comfort during an Aggie victory over McNeese State

earlier in the season. Texas A&M, 18-7 for the season faces the University of Minnesota in doubleheaders today and Wednesday at 1 in Olsen Field.

# Playing favorites?

## Sox' coach gives Squires chance to contribute

United Press International  
WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Every manager has a favorite ballplayer, only he usually will never say who it is.

He doesn't want to alienate the rest of his players or get their noses out of joint.

Tony LaRussa isn't looking to do that with his Chicago White Sox. He's likes togetherness, too, but every now and then he admits he develops a special

feeling for some particular player or other.

"I do have favorites," he says. "I get to where I think more of some of my guys than others. The more they contribute to the ballclub, the more I get to like them. I'll tell you one of my favorites — Mike Squires. I say that for a lot of reasons. I appreciate the way he comes to the ballpark ready to play every day.

"He understands the various aspects of the game and he works on them — baserunning, bunting, defense. All some guys care to do is hit. Mike isn't that way. He concentrates on every phase of the game. And he has ability to go with it. Here's a guy

it hasn't been easy for in the big leagues. I would know about that."

LaRussa is saying that he was the same type of player during his career with the A's, Braves and Cubs.

Squires, 30, a lefthanded hitter from Kalamazoo, Mich., has more natural ability. When he first came up to the White Sox, he was a defensive caddy at first base to Lamar Johnson, now with the Texas Rangers. He kept improving to where he was splitting the job with Johnson and last season he won it outright.

He did so well defensively that he earned the Gold Glove as the best fielding first baseman in the American League in 1981. Something happened to him at the plate, though. He did great the first half of the season, hitting .312. Then came the strike and he nose-dived to .214 during the second half.

Three months ago, the White Sox gave up three players to the Seattle Mariners for Tom Paciorek, the American League's second leading hitter last year with his .326 batting average. Paciorek, who can hit the long ball, plays first base and the outfield. The general thinking was, he would be the White Sox regular first baseman and Squires would return to being a

part-time player. Naturally Squires wasn't fascinated by that at all.

LaRussa could see the situation was getting Squid down, so he had a little private talk with him this spring.

"I want to know how you head is," LaRussa said to him.

"It's all right, but it could be better," Squires said.

LaRussa understood perfectly. He had gone through the same thing as a player. Many times.

"I guarantee that you'll be big part of this club," LaRussa said to Squires. "I'm not going to forget about you. You're going to get plenty of playing time promise you that."

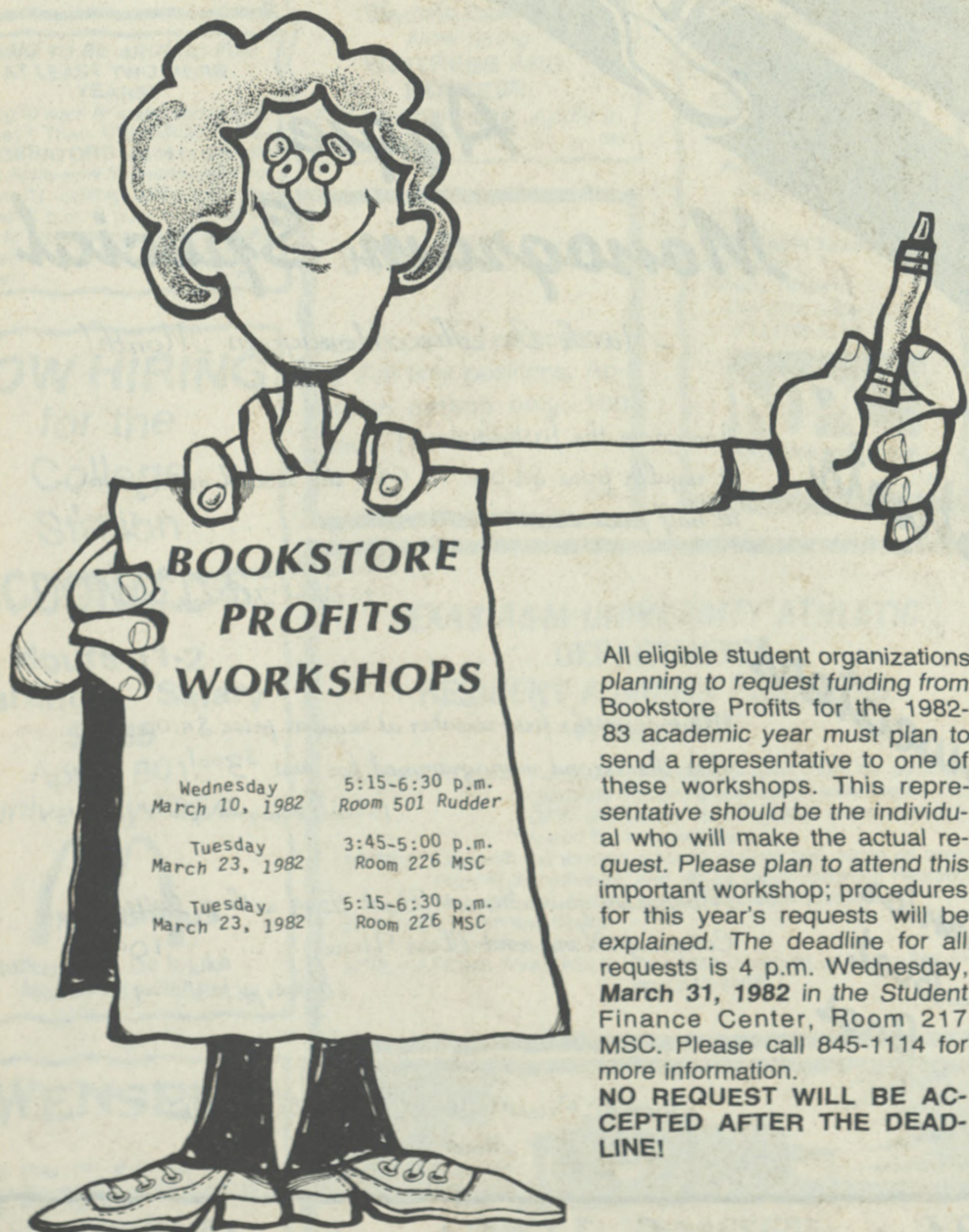
Squires listened and nodded. He has played for LaRussa more than two years now and, yes, trusts him.

"Tony has never lied to me," he says. "He talked to me before this and told me how he was going to use me and he did it the way he said he would. When I talked to me this time, he knew I was down over continuously being I had lost the first base job, and that I wouldn't play. He asked me if I was upset and told him I was. He said, 'If weren't upset about that, I'd be upset with you.'"

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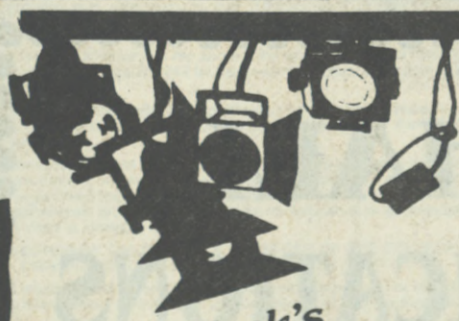
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